



Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program Monthly Update **March 2006**

The Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program (HCDOP) is a partnership of 38 organizations that conducts monitoring and analysis and develops potential corrective actions to address the low dissolved oxygen problem in Hood Canal. Following is a summary of HCDOP activities for March 2006.

Scientific Studies

- *Project update*
 - Phytoplankton are blooming in southern Hood Canal and oxygen remains low, at about 2 mg/L at the Sisters Point ORCA mooring. No appreciable changes are noted in the oxygen time-series from the Citizen Monitoring data. Stormwater sampling in the watershed has commenced. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
 - Molluscan Study – HCSEG held an initial meeting to discuss the methodology for the study with selected scientists (HCDOP, UW, WDFW, DNR). The scope of the study is continuing to be refined in order that the information collected is coordinated with other studies. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG; Toba, DNR)
 - Mindy Roberts (Ecology) worked with Mike Brett (UW) and Mary Lou Mills (DFW) to develop nutrient loads from hatcheries. (Roberts, ECY)
 - Mason County Department of Health Services (MCDHS) is sampling eleven locations for dissolved oxygen, nutrients and fecal coliform bacteria levels. MCDHS concluded wet weather ambient monitoring. They are now thirteen months into the freshwater monitoring component. (Mathews, Mason County)
- *New information generated by projects*
 - Barry Berejikian, NOAA, is leading a project to understand the marine movements of steelhead smolts from four river systems in Hood Canal: Big Beef, Snow Creek, Hamma Hamma, and the Skokomish. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)
 - Mike Brett's Civil and Environmental Engineering graduate class "Lake and Watershed Management" presented results of their Hood Canal nitrogen mass balance research projects on March 15 at UW. (Newton, UW/Hannafious, HCSEG)

Corrective Actions

- *Project update*
 - Anaerobic Digester Study: Mason Conservation District submitted the final study (a preliminary analysis of key issues and treatment options) to the Action Team in March 2006. Mason CD will conduct additional research to complete the feasibility study and to initiate preliminary design with funding from the Washington Conservation Commission. (Glasoe, PSAT)

- Hoodsport-Skokomish Wastewater Alternatives Analysis: Mason County distributed copies of the draft analysis to interested parties in January 2006. At the request of Mason County, staff from the Hood Canal Coordinating Council have organized a meeting with interested parties to discuss comments on the draft analysis and related issues at a meeting in Olympia on April 6. (Glasoe, PSAT)
- The Hood Canal Pollution Identification and Correction Project (HCPIC) team is creating a presentation to share at community meetings about best practices for septic system health and maintenance and how to keep nutrients from entering surface and groundwaters. To date, they have sampled from Triton Head to Hoodsport, and Alderbrook to Twanoh State Park. (Mathews, Mason County)

Outreach

- *Public education and outreach updates*
 - Ten AmeriCorps volunteers are scheduled to work with the HCDOP program Hood Canal on April 12, 13 and 14. They will help with monitoring, Smolt Traps and a “Students in the Watershed Event.” The team will make a video of their work, which will premier in Seattle on Earth Day, April 22, 2006. (Street, U.S. Navy)
 - The first issue of the *Hood Canal E-News* was sent out to nearly 600 subscribers. Overall feedback of the newsletter was very positive and more have subscribed since. The next edition will be due out sometime in mid-June, contact Emily Piper at elpiper@wsu.edu if you have any questions. You may subscribe on the [PSAT Hood Canal Website](#).
 - Ecology is moving forward on a video for shoreline homeowners around Hood Canal. They are aiming to produce a film 8-10 minutes long. For more information contact DouGlas dpal461@ecy.wa.us
 - Shore Stewards is beginning its second season and will focus on reducing the amount of fertilizers applied residentially and identification of onsite system failures and proper maintenance. For more information contact Cammy Mills cammymills@jefferson.wsu.edu.
 - The Community Nearshore Restoration Program will focus on the South Shore this spring and summer. The program will entail community workshops, beach walks, and individual restoration projects on site. For more information contact Sue Texeira with the Hood Canal Coordinating Council stexeira@hccc.wa.gov
 - A rain garden will be installed in the Hood Canal area, as part of a rain garden demonstration project. For more information please contact Bob Simmons simmons@wsu.edu
- *Upcoming meeting notices/speaking engagements*
 - The tenth Annual Students in the Watershed will take place on April 14 from 10am-2:30 pm at the Tahuya Horse Camp in Tahuya State Forest.
 - The second Hood Canal Youth Summit will take place on May 31 from 8:30-2:30 at Twanoh State Park. For more information please contact Karen at klippy@nmsd.wednet.edu.
 - The Lower Hood Canal Watershed Coalition is finalizing a date for a “Hood Canal Education Forum.” The date has very tentatively been set for Saturday June 24. For more information contact Phil Wiatrack Pwia461@ecy.wa.gov or Bob Hager bphager@msn.com

- The Mason County Environmental Health Department will hold a workshop for residents on April 13 at the Hoodsport Library to provide updates on their sanitary survey work. For more information contact Amy Georgeson 427.9670 x 544.
- Celebrate Hoodsport will be held on the July 1 and 2. For more information contact Frank Benavente at the Port of Hoodsport portmail@hctc.com
- HCSEG will hold Environmental Explorations this year at Belfair State Park. Over 900 students and 40 presenters focused around the theme of wild salmon ecosystems will participate. For more information contact chris@hcseg.org
- The next HCWEN meeting is scheduled for May 25, 1-4pm at the Kitsap SSWM Conference Room. For more information please contact Emily Piper elpiper@wsu.edu
- *Public outreach needs*
 - At the most recent HCWEN meeting, the need for education on tunicates, which have been found in Pleasant Harbor was discussed. Dan Hannafious will meet with Kevin Anderson (PSAT) and others on April 17 to discuss outreach needs.

Shellfish Areas

- The Department of Health upgraded the classification of the shellfish area at the western portion of Belfair State Park on Hood Canal. The western portion of the park opened April 1 for recreational harvest of oysters for the first time since 1987. The Mason County Department of Health led the collaborative effort to improve water quality that included several community organizations, the Lower Hood Canal Watershed Coalition, the state Department of Health, the Department of Ecology, and the Mason Conservation District. (Avy, DOH)
- Annas Bay Shellfish Protection District/Shellfish Downgrade: MCDHS is drafting a public announcement letter informing residents of the Annas Bay Shellfish Protection District and requesting shoreline residence dye tests of On Site Septic Systems. (Mathews, Mason County).

Funding

- APL-UW is still awaiting the arrival of the second year of HCDOP IAM funds.

Communications

- *Media coverage*

Newsletter launched on Hood Canal health

The Olympian

April 3, 2006

<http://www.theolympian.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060403/NEWS05/60403032>

Dead zones might masculinize fish

Science News

March 29, 2006

http://pubs.acs.org/subscribe/journals/esthag-w/2006/mar/science/jp_deadzones.html

Speak out on future of Hood Canal parks

Tacoma News Tribune

March 23, 2006

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/soundlife/story/5609018p-5040264c.html>